

Village of Key Biscayne
88 West McIntyre Street
Key Biscayne, FL 33149

K – 8 EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD
AGENDA

Tuesday, March 9, 2010 8:45 A.M.
VILLAGE MANAGER'S CONFERENCE ROOM - SUITE 210

1. Attendance
2. Approval of Minutes – Feb. 2, 2010
3. Additions and deletions
4. District News
5. (15 Min.) Academic Programs & Access Subcommittee Report
6. (1 Min.) Extracurricular Activities Update
7. (60 Min.) Academic Achievement & Enrichment Discussion
8. (5 Min.) Feasibility of Accelerating Improving Academic Programs & Expanding the Foreign Language Program for Implementation at the start of the 2010-2011 School Year
9. (5 Min.) Further Collaboration with the M-DCPS Administration in developing some areas of the K-8 Education Advisory Board Work Product
10. (5 Min.) Suggestions for Accelerating the K-8 Education Advisory Board Work Product
11. Next Regular Advisory Board Meeting Date – April 6, 2010
12. Adjournment

Minutes: February 2, 2010 (Draft)

1. Attendance: Present: Betty Sime Conroy, Amy Erwin, Brett Graff, Allison Eng Perez, Cassia Silva, Charles Viscito, Ana de Varona, Chad Friedman, Sylvia Tarafa, and Lisa Martinez. Absent: Margie Meagher.
2. Approval of Minutes – Jan. 5, 2010: Allison Eng Perez made a motion to adopt minutes and Amy Erwin seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Additions and deletions: Charles Viscito added item:

- a. Synopsis of information from the M-DCPS Family and Community Involvement Advisory Committee of which he is an alternate member: Mr. Viscito presented the board information from the Office of community Involvement. He mentioned that there is a meeting on February 20th of the Concerned Parent Advocate Committee for those that would like to attend.

Mr. Viscito stated that Ana de Varona has worked with the IT department to create a separate webpage for the K-8 Education Advisory Board at the Village of Key Biscayne government website where minutes, agendas and information is being maintained for public access.

4. Academic Programs & Access Subcommittee Report: Brett Graff presented the sub-committee's report to the board. She mentioned that the sub-committee has been doing a lot of research and is still doing research. The group has met with both Ms. Tarafa and Ms. Martinez. The group has looked at the expansion of the Foreign Language Program, Grant Writing possibilities, and Magnet possibility.

The sub-committee talked about having some type of grant program to get money for some of the programs at the school. Possibly having a formal volunteer corps that can help with grant writing.

The Sub-committee is very interested in expanding the Foreign Language Program as a top priority. Are aware that if the program is expanded need to make sure that the teachers are certified. Program needs to be expanded in a way that will be productive for the students and not just to make it bigger.

Lisa Martinez mentioned that she can provide information from the district.

Sylvia Tarafa mentioned that she is looking at the IS program. The school is already doing some of what is required but not getting credit for it. If school became an IS program it could potentially get the formal benefits of the program.

Mr. Viscito asked what would be the best approach for the subcommittee to make a recommendation about the Foreign Language Program; i.e. - expanding the EFL program, moving towards an International Studies (IS) model or pursuing an International Baccalaureate (IB) model.

Lisa Martinez mentioned that if the Village decides that the Foreign Language program is a priority, then when we come to the table to negotiate then you can prioritize with the district. The district can give the pros and cons.

Ms. Graff mentioned that the sub-committee will be meeting with the IB, Magnet and Foreign Language people to get as much information as possible.

Ms. Martinez mentioned that we should be looking at where there are gaps in the school.

Allison Eng Perez mentioned that expanding the Foreign Language program is what the community wants so we should focus our attention to leverage to increase the program to more students.

Ms. Graf mentioned that the subcommittee is interested in improving science and math, including improving technology and pursuing Smart Boards. She also stated that the subcommittee will look at improving the art programs by partnering with local Key Biscayne collectors and galleries.

Mr. Viscito asked Ms. Graff when will the committee be making a recommendation to the full board and she said a few more weeks so they can finish their research. Mr. Viscito would like to have them by the April meeting.

5. Scope of the K-8 Education Advisory Board

a. Removal of Adult Programs & Parent Academy

b. Removal of K-8 Student Secondary School Options & Articulation

Mr. Viscito mentioned that he attended the last Council Meeting. At the meeting the board was mandated to remove the Adult Programs and Parent Academy as well as K-8 Student Secondary School Options & Articulation from the scope.

Cassia Silva mentioned that she understands the worries of Council. She mentioned that she has been thru the process of sending her kids to school and feels that it is beneficial to talk about what school the children will attend next. She believes it is beneficial to discuss, but we should do what Council says.

Mr. Viscito mentioned that he mentioned to the Council that he felt the ordinance left it open to discuss the issue and that this was the Village's unique opportunity to discuss our issues with MDCPS.

Mr. Viscito asked Mr. Friedman since this will be removed from the scope can members of the board as individual citizens discuss high school issues. Mr. Friedman said yes, that as private citizens can discuss because the item is not part of the sunshine law since it will not be voted on by the board.

Mr. Viscito asked for a vote on the scope for the committee. The new scope is:

- i. Improving Academic Programs & Access: This includes curriculum, Pre-K4, special education, music, art and languages.
- ii. Extracurricular activities
- iii. Academic achievement and Enrichment
- iv. Miscellaneous: Includes technology, truancy and student support services, communications, health and safety and staff retention.
- v. Community Involvement
- vi. Coordinating School Infrastructure: This includes School capacity, lease agreement and facilities.

Betty Sime mentioned that she has a problem with going to Magnet.

Ms. Eng Perez mentioned that it is insightful to know what other schools are doing. It is important to explore magnet because maybe we can incorporate things that will benefit the school.

Amy Erwin mentioned that this is a unique opportunity for the district to listen to its customers.

Ms. Sime mentioned that how do we know that the community wants this. She feels that if the community had the opportunity to vote on this issue that it would probably fail.

Brett Graff mentioned that we are basically the research team for Ms. Tarafa.

Mr. Viscito mentioned that at a later point in time we need to have a town hall meeting.

Ms. Eng Perez asked if the Village had access to some type of survey system. Maybe sending out a survey could be helpful. Ms. De Varona mentioned that the Village has a program that can be used to send out surveys.

Ms. Sime would like to have technology under its own category, because she feels technology is a big problem at the school and should stand on its own. Ms. Tarafa agreed with Ms. Sime on this issue.

Ms. Sime also wanted to change the scope to say special emphasis on foreign language program.

Ms. Graff mentioned that the new name of the category should be Improving Academic Programs and Expanding Foreign Language Program.

Ms. Martinez mentioned that within the categories that we present, there will be some priorities that the district will advocate for and we should keep that in mind.

Mr. Viscito asked to add Parent to Community involvement category. New name is Parent & Community Involvement, Partnerships and Volunteering.

Mr. Viscito made a motion to adopt new scope as revised. Motion was seconded by Brett Graff. Motion passed unanimously.

New Scope:

- i. Improving Academic Programs and Expanding Foreign Language Programs: This includes curriculum , Pre-K4, special education, music, art and languages.
 - ii. Extracurricular activities
 - iii. Academic achievement and Enrichment
 - iv. Miscellaneous: Includes truancy, student support services, communications, health and safety, and staff retention.
 - v. Parent & Community Involvement, Partnerships and Volunteering
 - vi. Technology
 - vii. Coordinating School Infrastructure: This includes School capacity, lease agreement and facilities.
6. Suggestions for improvements for Interaction and Ongoing Dialog with Ms. Tarafa (Key Biscayne K-8 Center Principal): Ms. Tarafa mentioned that her role as principal is to provide a quality education and a safe environment for kids. Ms. Martinez mentioned that she would like for Ms. Tarafa to stay at the school site as much as possible. She will discuss with Ms. Tarafa separately about the process for meetings. Ms. Eng Perez will remain as liaison with Ms. Tarafa.

Mr. Viscito asked how the group can help with principal interaction. The board would love to have you at all the meetings, but is realistic that she will not always be able to attend.

Ms. Tarafa mentioned that she is more than open to come to meetings, but her time is very limited; especially now with FCATs coming. As long as she is

informed, we can all work together to improve school. Together we can enhance school.

7. Extracurricular Activities

a. After-School Programs

b. Sports Programs

Mr. Viscito would like to coordinate a meeting with Todd Hofferberth, a representative from the Community center Advisory Board and Ms. Tarafa to discuss synergy of after school programs and the community center. Would like to explore possibilities of programs at the center.

Ms. Tarafa can make it to meetings after 3pm for after school program meeting.

Mr. Viscito asked Ms. Martinez if there was an outside funding source for sports, can a K-8 Center participate in Middle School sports programs. Ms. Martinez mentioned that unfortunately K-8 centers cannot participate in middle school program sports. Sports can only be in the middle school program.

Ms. Tarafa mentioned that there are intramural sports at the school.

Mr. Viscito asked that if thru the Village we could engage in the possibility of having exhibition matches with Middle Schools that participate in the M-DCPS Middle Schools Athletic Program. Ms. Martinez mentioned that exhibition matches might be possible, but the funding for the program and transportation could not be funded by M-DCPS.

For the next meeting would like to see:

- i. Update from Subcommittee
- ii. Update on Extracurricular activities
- iii. Next item to discuss is academic achievement & enrichment

8. Next Regular Advisory Board Meeting Date – March 9, 2010

9. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 10:53am.

Respectfully submitted,

Ana de Varona
Special Projects Coordinator
Village of Key Biscayne